Background Paper on JADS Voice Networks

The purpose of this background paper is to explain the purpose and composition of the Joint Advanced Distributed Systems (JADS)/Joint Test Force (JTF) voice network. One of the test requirements established by the JADS/JTF was the need to maintain operational as well as command and control voice communications during testing. The Operations voice net would allow JADS network technicians to monitor and maintain the JADS communications network. The Command and Control voice network would be utilized by the test director and other members of the test control element to conduct and control testing operations. The requirements of each voice network would be the ability to conference telephone calls and the capability to record each network. There were three methods considered to accomplish the voice conferencing. The first was a telephone operator console system. It would provide the TCAC with the conferencing capability needed plus other options but was ruled out due to the cost being The second alternative was an AT&T telephone system called Merlin which also provided the appropriate conferencing capability, but at $10,000 it was also considered too expensive. The alternative which was adopted was to use the Communications Squadron at Kirtland AFB and take advantage of their conferencing bridge system. This system can be accessed by any standard, single-line telephone and allows up to 10 users to conduct conference calls. Most important of all, it was at no cost to JADS. The networks are established by dialing into a conference bridge through a Kirtland AFB telephone number provided by the base Communications Squadron. Each voice network uses one telephone number to access its conference bridge. Each conference bridge can accommodate up to 10 people. In order for a player to participate in a conference call they simply dial that network's conference bridge and they are bridged into the conference. The recording of the voice networks was accomplished with the purchase of a video cassette recorder (VCR). One phone drop from each voice network is cabled into the VCR where each can be recorded during test periods. The recordings can be replayed over the VCR tape along with any video that may have been recorded. The replay of one voice network at a time can be accomplished by only plugging in the track which you wish to replay. In the final analysis of the JADS voice network, cost was the overriding concern. The JADS was able to obtain a functional system at a minimal cost.

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